



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/599,679	06/22/00	BROCKWAY	R TER003RA

HAROLD C KNECHT III
P O BOX 28338
ST. PAUL MN 55128

PM82/0913

EXAMINER

STORMER, R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3617

DATE MAILED:

09/13/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/599,679

Applicant(s)
R. Brockway

Examiner
Russell Stormer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 28, 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 26 and 27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-25 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) ☐ Other: _____

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Reissue Applications

1. This reissue application was filed without the required offer to surrender the original patent or, if the original is lost or inaccessible, an affidavit or declaration to that effect. The original patent, or an affidavit or declaration as to loss or inaccessibility of the original patent, **must** be received before this reissue application can be allowed. See 37 CFR 1.178.

Election/Restriction

2. Newly submitted claims 26 and 27 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: The method of making the compactor wheel comprises method steps which were not set forth in the originally filed claims 1-23. A search for the method of constructing a wheel would require a search in class 29, which was not required in examination of the originally filed claims.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 26 and 27 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

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Reissue Oath

It is noted that the statements made in paragraphs 6, 8, and 9 (note that there are two paragraphs labelled "6") of the Reissue Oath filed September 21, 2000, are considered to be incorrect and appear to introduce new matter into the file history because the disclosure of the parent application does not disclose or even suggest that the width of cleat-free area of the rim can be measured against anything other than the cleats 28 which are secured to the wheel rim.

The specification of the originally filed parent applicant makes it clear that the cleat-free area is obtained by removing the inner-most row of cleats 36, or by locating this row farther outward and extending the rim inward. See the last twelve lines of page 10 and all of page 11 of the specification of parent application 08/732901 and/or lines 13-60 of column 6 of the parent patent 5,769,507. Nowhere in the originally filed specification of the parent application is there any suggestion that the cleat-free area can be have at least the width of "any compaction cleat, not just the width of the compaction cleats mounted to the face of the rim" as stated in paragraphs 6 and 8 of the reissue oath.

The statements of paragraphs 6, 8, and 9 appear to introduce new matter into the file history because these statements define the width of the cleat-free area in terms broader than previously used to define the cleat-free area.

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Specification

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

The following is a quotation of 37 CFR 1.71(a)-(c):

(a) The specification must include a written description of the invention or discovery and of the manner and process of making and using the same, and is required to be in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which the invention or discovery appertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same.

(b) The specification must set forth the precise invention for which a patent is solicited, in such manner as to distinguish it from other inventions and from what is old. It must describe completely a specific embodiment of the process, machine, manufacture, composition of matter or improvement invented, and must explain the mode of operation or principle whenever applicable. The best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention must be set forth.

© In the case of an improvement, the specification must particularly point out the part or parts of the process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter to which the improvement relates, and the description should be confined to the specific improvement and to such parts as necessarily cooperate with it or as may be necessary to a complete understanding or description of it.

The specification is objected to under 37 CFR 1.71 as failing to adequately teach how to make and/or use the invention, i.e., failing to provide an enabling disclosure.

There is no description in the originally filed disclosure as to how wide the cleat-free area must be to be "wide enough that refuse is less likely to be directed toward the axle" of the compaction machine. There is no description of how wide is "wide enough" or what is meant by "less likely" as set forth in claim 21.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claims 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. There is no description in the specification to allow one of ordinary skill in the art to ascertain how wide is "wide enough that refuse is less likely to be directed toward the axle." Further, there is no measurement given to define the term "less likely."

5. Claims 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 23 and 25, the preamble sets forth a compaction machine, yet the claims depend from claim 21 which claims only the compactor wheel by itself. The claims are indefinite because it is not clear whether Applicant intends to claim the compactor wheel, the compactor, or the combination of the two subcombinations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 21-25 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either one of Finley and O'Neill et al.

Finley and O'Neill et al each teach a compaction wheel comprising a rim and a hub and a plurality of compaction cleats mounted to the face of the rim. A cleat-free area is provided on the rim adjacent the inner edge of the rim. While the references do not specifically state the cleat-free area would make it less likely that refuse would be directed toward the axle, this would have been obvious inasmuch as if the area is cleat-free, then it would be less likely that refuse would be able to adhere to the cleat-free area of the rim and then would be directed toward the axle.

With respect to claims 23 and 25, it is inherent that the wheels would be mounted to compaction machines.

With respect to claim 28, the width the cleat-free area extends across the rim is considered to be preselected.

Interference

8. Claim 28 of this application has been presented as a proposed count claim. This claim is not patentable to the applicant because it has been rejected under 35 USC 103 as set forth in paragraph 7 above.

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An interference cannot be initiated since a prerequisite for interference under 37 CFR 1.606 is that the claim be patentable to the applicant subject to a judgement in the interference.

9. It should be noted that claim 28 does not set forth the same patentable invention as is claimed in the 5,687,799 patent because claim 1 of the patent limits the (axially) outermost row of teeth (cleats) to be positioned immediately adjacent the outer periphery of the drum. While this is thought to mean that the axially outermost cleats are immediately adjacent the *edge* of the rim, this limitation is not found in the proposed count claim 28, and therefore the count claim is of a different scope than the patented claim. As noted in MPEP 2306, applicant must claim the same patentable invention as is claimed in the patent. Accordingly, an interference cannot be based on claim 28.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 1-20 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed June 18, 2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The rejection of claims 23 (and now 25) under 35 USC 112 have not been addressed.

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Applicant proposes that instant claims 1-27 and the '799 patent claims 1-10 correspond to the proposed count and be included in the interference, but gives not reasons why the additional correspond to the count. Most of these claims are drawn to a compactor wheel having a raised barrier and are not drawn to the same invention of the proposed count claim 28.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references show other compactor wheels in which a row of teeth or cleats is spaced from at least one of the edges of the rim of the wheel.

13. Applicant's amendment to claim 21 necessitated the new grounds of rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

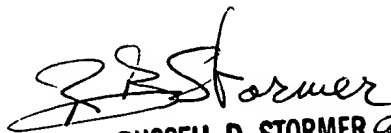
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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell D. Stormer whose telephone number is (703) 308-3768.

rds

September 9, 2001


RUSSELL D. STORMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER 9/4/01